

SCHWARZENEGGER FILLS KEY STAFF POSITIONS AND CABINET POSTS

Governor-elect Arnold Schwarzenegger this week filled a number of key staff and cabinet positions with an eclectic mix of appointees. As *Sacramento Bee* columnist Dan Weintraub [noted](#), the ideological diversity of the appointees permits the new chief executive to receive “the widest possible range of recommendations and then decide for himself which road to follow.”

Key appointees for the week were Florida budget chief Donna Arduin as Director of Finance, former LA mayor Richard Riordan as Secretary of Education, Chief Deputy Attorney General Peter Siggins as Legal Affairs Secretary, Marybel Batjer as Cabinet Secretary, Bonnie Reiss as Senior Advisor, Rob Stutzman as Communications Director, and California Chamber of Commerce lobbyist Richard Costigan as Legislative Secretary.



[Siggins](#), 48, is a 15-year veteran of the AG's office, who served as a top deputy to both current Attorney General Bill Lockyer and his predecessor, Dan Lundgren. Siggins heads up legal

affairs for the office, overseeing the thousands of criminal appeals, civil suits and other litigation handled by the 1,100 lawyers within the Department of Justice. He was a Republican prior to his elevation to the top slot in Lockyer's office, when he re-registered as an independent.

[Arduin](#), who most recently served as Florida Governor Jed Bush's budget director, has been working with the incoming administration on a volunteer basis for the past few weeks, seeking to identify budget cuts that could be made to close the state's remaining shortfall. Though the appointment of Arduin, 40, raised concerns with advocates for the poor, who say they are alarmed at the health care cuts she oversaw in Florida, it does not appear that Senate Democrats will seek to block her appointment. Senate President [John Burton](#) (D-San Francisco) is quoted as saying, “the governor has a right to his own director of finance.”



[Riordan's](#) appointment also sparked some controversy, prompting California Teachers Association Executive Director Ed Hein to resign from Schwarzenegger's transition team. The CTA had urged the Governor-elect to eliminate the

Education Secretary post as duplicative of the function of the elected Superintendent of Public Instruction (Democrat Jack O'Connell). Riordan, 73, is an attorney and regarded as a moderate Republican.



[Reiss](#), 48, is a 25-year friend of the Governor-elect and his wife, Maria Schriver. She is a former entertainment lawyer and self-described liberal. In



contrast, newly-appointed Communications Director [Stutzman](#), 35, was a spokesman for Attorney General Dan Lundgren, former Senate Republican Leader Rob Hurtt, and later for the Proposition

22 campaign in 2000, before joining Schwarzenegger's gubernatorial campaign as spokesman. [Batjer](#), 48, was most recently Chief of Staff to Nevada Governor Kenny Guinn, as is a former Undersecretary of California's Business, Transportation & Housing Agency.

Costigan, an attorney admitted in Georgia, was policy director for the Assembly Republican Caucus and chief of staff to two Assembly Republican leaders before leaving the Legislature in 2002 to join the law/lobbying firm of Manatt, Phelps & Phillips. He became the Chamber's Vice President of Government Relations early in 2003.



INITIATIVE REDUX

For those who were wondering whether the substantially higher voter turnout in the recent gubernatorial replacement election than the regular 2002 election would increase the number of votes required to qualify initiatives and referenda for the ballot, the answer is 'No.'

According to a memo from the Secretary of State's office to county clerks, the October 7 election was a “recall election” rather than a “gubernatorial election” for purposes of determining signature requirements for qualifying initiatives or referenda – or for determining the threshold for a political party to qualify for the ballot.

On the other hand, the Secretary of State opines that the turnout in the recall election does set a new, higher signature threshold to qualify a recall of a statewide officer, due to different language in the relevant constitutional provision.